

INCOMING TELEGRAM (47) Department of State

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-47-48 F770004-1880

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Action

EUR

Info

FROM: BERLIN

SS

TO: Secretary of State

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SP

NO: 198, AUGUST 14, 9 PM (SECTION ONE OF TWO)

SA

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 6/29/77

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PRIORITY

SB

FADRC FOI CASE NO. 5710567

SO

ACTION DEPARTMENT 198, BONN PRIORITY 171, INFORMATION LONDON 112, PARIS 118, MOSCOW 107, POLAD USAREUR

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PARIS FOR EMBASSY, USRO, STOESSEL AND MCGUIRE

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1. EAST BERLIN: KAMPFGRUPPEN AND VOPO FORCES STILL DEPLOYED IN STRENGTH IN CENTER OF CITY TO KEEP TRAFFIC MOVING AND CONTROL CROWDS. DISPOSITION OF SOVZONE ARMED FORCES IN EAST BERLIN SAME AS SUNDAY. BRANDENBURG GATE CLOSED FOR ALL TRAFFIC AT 3 P.M.; EAST GERMAN ARMORED CARS, GUNS POINTING WESTWARD, BLOCKING EACH ARCH OF GATE. ACTION CLOSING GATE PROBABLY CAUSED BY DASH TO FREEDOM OF SMALL GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO SEIZED OPPORTUNITY OF TEMPORARY DISTRACTION WHEN BRANDT, AMREHN, AND BUNDESTAG PRES GERSTENMAIER VISITED BRANDENBURG GATE AREA; REPORTEDLY VOPO GUARD WAS AMONG THOSE ESCAPING TO WEST. EAST RADIO CLAIMED CLOSING OF GATE NECESSARY BECAUSE OF "PROVOCATORY ACTIONS OF WEST BERLIN MOBS." EAST RADIO SUBSEQUENTLY BROADCAST GDR INTERIOR MINISTRY WARNING TO WEST BERLINERS TO STAY AT 100-METER DISTANCE FROM COMMUNIST FORCES GUARDING SECTOR BORDER. NEWS PHOTOGRAPHERS WHO CAME CLOSER REPORTEDLY SPRAYED FROM WATER HOSES. ACCORDING WEST BERLIN POLICE REPORTS, TEAR GAS FIRED FROM POINT BETWEEN BRANDENBURG GATE AND POTSDAMER PLATZ AT ABOUT 1 P.M., APPARENTLY AGAINST CROWDS AT SECTOR BORDER. SOVIET BORDER GUARDS ALSO REPORTED FIRING TEAR GAS SHELLS OR WARNING SHOTS AGAINST JUVENILES THROWING STONES IN HINDENBURG PLATZ.

(2)

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-2- 198, AUGUST 14, 9 PM, FROM BERLIN (SECTION ONE OF TWO)

MISSION OFFICERS TOURING EAST BERLIN OBSERVED ARMED POLICE WITH FIXED BAYONETS STANDING AT 10-METER INTERVALS AT WILHELMSTRASSE. SECTOR CROSSING POINTS APPEARED NORMAL, WITH SMALLER CROWDS THAN YESTERDAY ON BOTH SIDES. VOPO'S AND KAMP-FGRUPPEN PREVENTED ONLOOKERS FROM APPROACHING CROSSING POINTS. AS YESTERDAY, US VEHICLES PERMITTED ENTRY AND EXIT AT CROSSING POINTS WITHOUT CONTROL. THERE NO REPORTS OF INTERFERENCE WITH WEST BERLIN OR WEST GERMAN VEHICULAR OR PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC.

EAST BERLIN CROWDS SO FAR TODAY SMALLER THAN YESTERDAY BECAUSE FACTORIES OPERATING TODAY. AMREHN TOLD COMMANDANTS AT NOON MEETING THERE LITTLE INFORMATION RE MOOD OF EAST SECTOR POPULATION, BUT EXPRESSED CONCERN RE DEGREE OF UNREST OBSERVED SUNDAY. IN SOME CASES CROWDS OF MORE THAN 100 IN SIZE WERE SEEN CARRYING ON HEATED DEBATES, ARGUING WITH VOPO'S, AND CONDEMNING EAST REGIME AND ITS ACTIONS.

2. REFUGEE SITUATION: REFUGEES CONTINUE TO ARRIVE AT MARIENFELDE RECEPTION CENTER, THOUGH IN GREATLY REDUCED NUMBERS. TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTRATIONS FROM 12 NOON SATURDAY TO 4 P.M. MONDAY 6,904. NO TOTAL COUNT FOR TODAY AVAILABLE YET. WHILE MOST REFUGEES REGISTERING WERE IN WEST BERLIN PRIOR TO EAST GERMAN SEAL-OFF OPERATION, REPORTS PERSIST THAT SOME ARRIVING IN WEST BERLIN BY SWIMMING ACROSS CANALS, CRAWLING THROUGH BARBED WIRE, OR SLIPPING THROUGH VOPO CHECKPOINTS, AT TIMES WITH CONNIVANCE EAST GERMAN PERSONNEL. MARIENFELDE CENTER STILL OVERCROWDED AND IS ASKING REFUGEES WHO HAVE SHELTER ELSEWHERE TO REPORT FOR REGISTRATION IN TWO DAYS.

3. WEST BERLIN: INITIAL POPULAR REACTION IS OUTRAGE AT COMMUNIST ACTION AND FRUSTRATION WITH WEST'S INABILITY TO COUNTER PROMPTLY AND VIGOROUSLY EAST GERMAN MOVES; THESE OVERSHADOW BY FAR ANY EXPRESSIONS OF INCREASED CONCERN RE FUTURE OF WEST BERLIN.

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

ACTION COPY

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Action

F770004-1882

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Control:

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Rec'd:

AUGUST 14

6:10 PM

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AUG 15 PM 7 33

OFFICE OF STATE

EUR

Info

FROM: BERLIN

SS

TO: Secretary of State

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SP

NO: 198, AUGUST 14, 9 PM (SECTION TWO OF TWO)

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ACTION DEPARTMENT 198, PRIORITY BONN 171; INFORMATION LONDON 112, PARIS 118, MOSCOW 107, POLAD USAREUR 105

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IN COURSE OF DAY SEVERAL DEMONSTRATIONS TOOK PLACE BEFORE WEST BERLIN CITY HALL. AT 11 AM CROWD OF WORKERS FROM AEG TURBINE FACTORY (ESTIMATED AT 8000 INCLUDING ONLOOKERS) PROTESTED WITH BANNERS AGAINST COMMUNIST ACTIONS. GOV MAYOR WAS HANDED LETTER OF PROTEST FROM WORKERS EXPRESSING EXPECTATION THAT SENAT, FEDGOVT, AND ALLIES WILL TAKE COUNTERMEASURES MAKING CLEAR TO SOV ZONE REGIME THAT FREEDOM OF BERLIN IS INVOLABLE AND THAT VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. BRANDT, SPEAKING TO CROWD FROM CITY HALL STEPS, THANKED THEM FOR THEIR EXPRESSION OF SOLIDARITY, ASKED THEM TO KEEP CALM. BRANDT PROMISED SENAT WOULD LOOK INTO QUESTION OF SED ACTIVITIES IN WEST BERLIN, INCLUDING PUBLISHING OF PAPER BEARING FRADULENT NAME, DIE WAHRHEIT (TRUTH). WITH OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO DEMANDS VOICED BY FRESS THAT S-BAHN IN WEST BERLIN BE TAKEN OVER, BRANDT SAID THOUGHT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO "REGULATE A NEW RAILROAD TRAFFIC." HE ALSO FORESHADOWED POSSIBLE ACTIONS AGAINST WEST-EAST BORDER-CROSSERS BY SAYING IT INTOLERABLE THAT RAILROAD WORKERS, ARTISTS, ETC., EARNING EAST MARKS IN EAST BERLIN SHOULD BE PAID WEST MARKS FROM (WEST BERLIN) TAX MONEYS. (REFERENCE TO EXCHANGE ARRANGEMENTS PERMITTING EAST MARK EXCHANGE FOR WEST MARKS AT ONE TO ONE.) CROWD BROKE UP PEACEFULLY AFTER DGB CHAIRMAN SICKERT CALLED ON WORKERS TO RETURN TO JOBS.

DGB-SPONSORED

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-2- 198, AUGUST 14, 9 PM (SECTION TWO OF TWO) FROM BERLIN

DGB-SPONSORED 15-MINUTE WORK STOPPAGE AT 2 P.M. REPORTEDLY VERY EFFECTIVE. WORK AND MOST TRAFFIC IN WEST BERLIN STOPPED; BUS AND CAR PASSENGERS STOOD QUIETLY IN STREETS. UNDER WORKS COUNCIL SPONSORSHIP, WORKERS AT SIEMENS WENT ON STRIKE DEMANDING FIRING FEW KNOWN COMMUNISTS. WORK WAS RESUMED ABOUT TWO HOURS LATER AFTER COMMUNISTS FIRED AND EXPELLED FROM PREMISES.

AT ABOUT 3 P.M. CROWD OF MORE THAN 3000 WORKERS MARCHED TO CITY HALL PRESENTING FURTHER PROTEST AGAINST COMMUNIST ACTIONS AND WAS BRIEFLY ADDRESSED BY AMREHN IN TERMS SIMILAR TO THOSE PREVIOUSLY USED BY BRANDT.

IN AFTERNOON HOURS POTENTIALLY DIFFICULT SITUATION THREATENED TO DEVELOP AS WORKERS FROM SEVERAL ENTERPRISES ANNOUNCED INTENTION MARCH ON BRANDENBURG GATE. INTERIOR SENATOR ISSUED STATEMENT SAYING THAT DESPITE APPRECIATION OF WORKERS' MOTIVES, DEMONSTRATIONS TOWARD OR AT SECTOR BORDERS COULD NOT BE PERMITTED. DEMONSTRATION CANCELLED. WEST BERLIN POLICE REPORTS CROWDS AT BRANDENBURG GATE AT TIMES REACHED 3000 TO 4000, BUT POLICE ABLE CONTROL SITUATION AS LONG AS ORGANIZED MARCHES DEFLECTED TO OTHER POINTS IN CITY.

MAYOR BRANDT GIVING ADDRESS OVER NORTH-GERMAN RADIO TONIGHT SAYING HE DEVOTING RADIO TIME GRANTED TO HIS PARTY FOR OPENING ELECTION CAMPAIGN TO REPORT ON BERLIN SITUATION. BRANDT MAKING ESSENTIALLY SAME POINTS AS IN SPEECH HOUSE OF REPS YESTERDAY (BERLIN'S 187 DEPT, 161 BONN). ONLY ADDITIONAL POINT IS STATEMENT THAT WHILE SENAT HAS MADE SUGGESTIONS TO FEDREP AND TO WESTERN ALLIES RE TREATMENT OF CURRENT SERIOUS SITUATION, IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO EXPECT ACTION ONLY FROM THE ALLIES. ALTHOUGH ALLIED RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS ARE AFFECTED, CAUSE OF ENTIRE GERMAN PEOPLE IS AT STAKE. THIS REQUIRES WEST GERMAN POPULATION TO EMPHATICALLY DEMONSTRATE COMPLETE SOLIDARITY; BRANDT ADDED HE COULD NOT IMAGINE THAT IN CURRENT SITUATION ANY WEST GERMANS WOULD TRAVEL TO LEIPZIG FAIR.

PRESENT EFFORTS KEEP PEOPLE CALM HAVE DEFERRED ANY CONSIDERATION MASS PROTEST RALLY.

JVC/22

LIGHTNER

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